DC

13

HARLEY QUINN

PHILLIPS
ROSSMO
LEISTEN
PLASCENCIA

THE VERDICT IS IN!

AGES 13+
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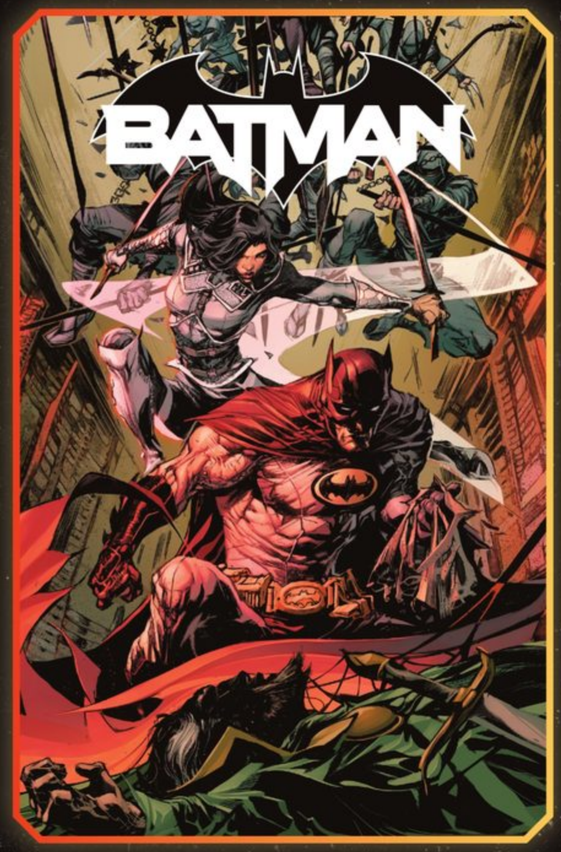
DEATHSTROKE HAS ASSASSINATED RA'S AL GHUL, AND THE LEAGUE OF SHADOWS IS OUT FOR BLOOD. CAN BATMAN AND ROBIN BRING HIM TO JUSTICE?

SHADOW WAR

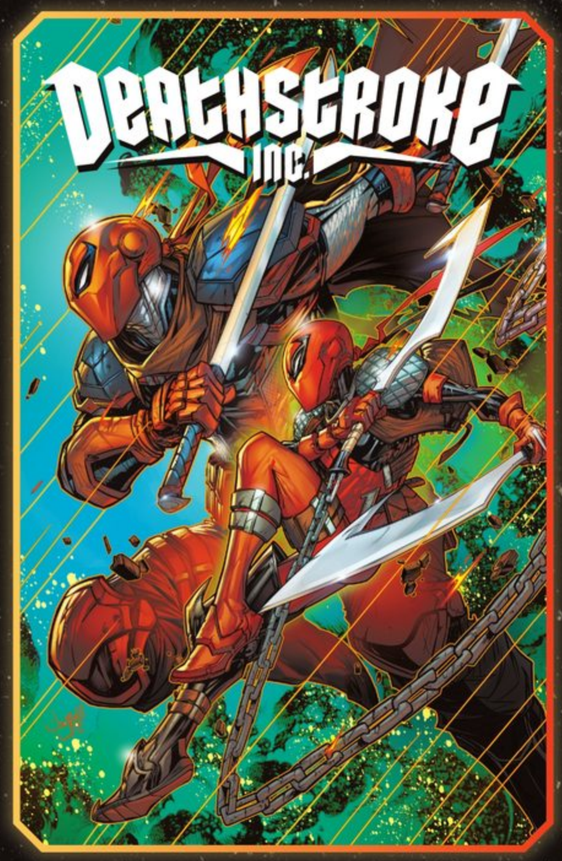
WRITTEN BY
JOSHUA WILLIAMSON

ART BY
VIKTOR BOGDANOVIC, HOWARD PORTER, PAOLO PANTALENA, AND ROGER CRUZ

Part 1: *Shadow War: Alpha* cover by Jonboy Meyers



Part 2: *Batman* #122 cover by Howard Porter



Part 3: *Deathstroke Inc.* #8 cover by Jonboy Meyers

Part 4: *Robin* #13 cover by Roger Cruz and Norm Rapmund

AN EPIC 9-PART CROSSOVER FEATURING ACTION, MYSTERY, AND BETRAYAL

March
- *Shadow War: Alpha* #1

April
- *Batman* #122
- *Deathstroke Inc.* #8
- *Robin* #13

May
- *Batman* #123
- *Shadow War Zone* #1
- *Deathstroke Inc.* #9
- *Robin* #14
- *Shadow War: Omega* #1

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GOTHAM CITY.

I'VE SEEN THE **BEST** THAT GOTHAM HAS TO OFFER...

I THINK I'M TAPPING OUT, FELLAS...

HUNGRY HEART BAR & GRILL

...I'VE SEEN IT **DROWNED** BY THE LIARS AND THE CORRUPT WHO SEEM TO MULTIPLY IN THE STREETS LIKE THAT DAMNED HYDRA FROM GREEK MYTHOLOGY...

POP

...ONE MORE DRINK AND I'LL BE DANCING ON THE TABLES.

THE VERDICT PART 1

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Colorist IVAN PLASCENIA Letterer ANDWORLD DESIGN Cover by RILEY ROSSMO
Variant Cover by DERRICK CHEW Ratio Variant Cover by MICO SUAYAN & REX LOKUS
THE BATMAN Movie Variant by SIMONE BIANCHI
Edited by BEN ABERNATHY
HARLEY QUINN Created by PAUL DINI and BRUCE TIMM

CUT **ONE** DOWN AND **TEN** MORE APPEAR.

THEN DANCE ON THE DAMN TABLES...

IT'S YOUR **BIRTHDAY**, FRANKIE...YOU CAN DO **WHATEVER** THE HELL YOU WANT, OKAY?

KLINK

BUT FRANKIE PETERSON, FORMER CONSULTANT TO THE FALCONE FAMILY, **CUT DOWN** AT LEAST **EIGHT** PEOPLE IN THE LAST WEEK ALONE.

SPECIAL DELIVERY!

SURE, GUYS LIKE FRANKIE GET ARRESTED ALL THE TIME. I'VE WATCHED IT HAPPEN. BUT MOST OF THE TIME, THE CHARGES DON'T STICK. AND EVEN WHEN THEY DO...

AH... WHAT'S THIS, NOW?

COULD THERE BE A SPECIAL **SURPRISE** IN THE MIDDLE? MAYBE SOMETHING A LITTLE...

...LAWYERS ARE EMBEDDED IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM LIKE TICKS.

HIYA, PUDDIN'!

...SWEET...?!

JUSTICE ISN'T AN IDEAL, IT'S A COMMODITY...

IS THAT... HARLEY QUINN?!

...BOUGHT AND SOLD AND BARTERED...

WHICH IS HOW FRANKIE PETERSON IS A FREE MAN TODAY...

...HE BOUGHT HIS WAY BACK ONTO THE STREETS WHERE HE BEGAN MOVING ILLEGAL AND UNTRACEABLE WEAPONS.

NOW IT'S A PARTY.

VIOLENT CRIME HAS SKYROCKETED SINCE FRANKIE DECIDED TO PLAY ENTREPRENEUR...

BLAM BLAM

BLAM

BUT PRISON DOORS MIGHT AS WELL BE **TURNSTILES** AT THIS POINT.

UNGH!

THE SYSTEM DOESN'T WORK...

CLICK

...IT'S **ROTTEN** TO ITS CORE.

WHAM

WHAK

SOMEONE **KILL** HER!

****
CLOWN!

KRSSH BRACKA

KRSSH BRACKA KRSSH

IN MY OLD JOB, I USED TO HEAR IT ALL THE TIME: "WHY CAN'T SOMEBODY **DO** SOMETHING?"

WELL, I AM SOMEBODY.

CAN'T HIDE FOREVER, CLOWN.

LAST CALL!

KRASSSH

ARGH!

AND I AM DOING SOMETHING.

SOMETHING THEY DESERVE...

YOUR NAME'S NOT TOMMY, SO THIS CAN'T POSSIBLY BE YOURS...

...SOMETHING PERMANENT.

TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT

COME TO THINK OF IT...MY NAME'S NOT TOMMY EITHER.

JUSTICE ISN'T JUST RARE... IT'S EXTINCT.

FRANKIE PETERSON...

I'VE RENDERED MY VERDICT.

AND I FIND THEM GUILTY.

FINALLY...

...JUSTICE HAS COME TO GOTHAM.

WHERE'S THE **JUSTICE,** I ASK YA?!

ALL OF THESE **FANCY-PANTS** RESTAURANTS IN THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT JUST **THROW AWAY** THEIR UNUSED FOOD AT THE END OF EVERY NIGHT...

PEN14

LET'S ROLL!

GOTHAM'S FINANCIAL DISTRICT.

I...DIDN'T MEAN THAT *LITERALLY!*

COME BACK HERE!

...EVEN WHEN ONE **VERY** CHARMING, QUIRKY, AND ADORABLE **ME** ASKS THEM **VERY NICELY** TO DONATE IT TO LOCAL SHELTERS.

SO NOW I'M NOT ASKIN' SO NICELY...

AND THEY'RE INTO THE STRETCH WITH HARLEY QUINN GAINING ON THE FOOD TRUCK...

...THAT EXTRA SHOT OF ESPRESSO BEFORE PUTTING ON ROLLER SKATES TO OVERTAKE AND COMMANDEER A TRUCK IS REALLY SERVING HER WELL TONIGHT, FOLKS!

BUT AT LEAST I'M STILL CHARMING, QUIRKY, **AND** ADORABLE.

AND WHILE THAT BLOND-HAIRED **HIMBO** OVER IN STAR CITY HAS ALREADY CO-OPTED THE WHOLE **MEN IN GREEN TIGHTS** WITH BOWS THING...

EXCUSE ME, SIR...

...I'D SAY THERE'S ENOUGH ROOM IN THIS WORLD FOR MORE THAN ONE MERRY **WO**MAN WITH A BAND OF OUTCAST DO-GOODERS.

WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH YOU ABOUT YOUR DELIVERY TRUCK'S EXTENDED WARRANTY--

HUH?!

NO... DON'T--

OH, RELAX. I'M **NOT** GONNA STRAP YOU TO THE HOOD OF YOUR OWN TRUCK AND DRIVE YOU THROUGH THE AUTOMATIC CAR WASH REPEATEDLY. I ALREADY DID THAT ONCE...

NO...WAIT... **TWICE.**

SKREEE

I'LL HAVE HER BACK BEFORE CURFEW, SIR...

...I PROMISE, NO FUNNY BUSINESS EXCEPT MAYBE A **LITTLE** HEAVY PETTING.

JUST THINK OF ME LIKE ROBIN HOOD. NO, NOT THE CARTOON ONE, WITH HIS LUXURIOUS RED FUR, PIERCING EYES, AND ALLURING DEVIL-MAY-CARE ATTITUDE THAT MAKES HIM SOMEHOW **IRRESISTIBLE** TO--

...I'VE SAID TOO MUCH.

ANYWAYS, THINK OF ME LIKE ROBIN HOOD, BORROWING FROM THE RICH TO GIVE TO THE FOOD INSECURE.

AND I'VE GOT A BAT INSTEAD OF A BOW, WHICH IS ARGUABLY FAR COOLER. I MEAN...EVEN A **CROSSBOW** SEEMS MORE PRACTICAL...BUT I DIGRESS.

HAWKMAN

PRIVATE PROPERTY

DID SOMEONE ORDER A LARGE TRUCK FULL OF FOOD THAT WAS ABOUT TO BE THROWN OUT AND NOW WE'RE ABLE TO REPURPOSE AND FEED LOTS OF PEOPLE ***FOR FREE?***

BECAUSE... IF NOT, THIS IS KINDA AWKWARD.

AND KEVIN IS LITTLE JOHN... **OBVIOUSLY.** EXCEPT HIS NAME'S NOT JOHN, NOT SURE IF THAT'S A COPYRIGHT ISSUE.

LET ME GET THE GATE!

I GUESS MY **MAID MARIAN** IS ON A JOURNEY TO FIGURE OUT WHO SHE IS NOW.

AND THE FORMER SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM WOULD BE KEEPSAKE...OR HUGO STRANGE...OR MAYBE THE MAGISTRATE?

MAYBE THAT'S THE POINT...THERE'S ALWAYS A NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN READY TO PICK ON THE **LITTLE GUYS.**

****!

DON'T SKATE AND DRIVE, FOLKS!

A YEAR AGO...I HAD **NO IDEA** WHAT MY PLACE IN GOTHAM WAS GOING TO BE.

WAFFLE!

RAF!

THE WHOLE CITY SEEMED A LITTLE OVERRUN WITH CAPES AND FLYING NOCTURNAL MAMMALS TO NEED **ANOTHER** VIGILANTE ON THE STREETS...

WHO'S A GOOD BOY? IT'S YOU...YOU KNOW IT'S YOU.

YOU SWEET PERFECT ANGEL...I WOULD DIE FOR YOU, YOU KNOW THAT? I WOULD SACRIFICE MY BODY IF YOU EVER NEEDED--

WERE THERE ANY PROBLEMS GETTING THE TRUCK, HARLEY?

PROBLEMS? WHAT KIND OF PROBLEMS COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE WHEN YOU JUST ***FIND*** A TRUCK FULL OF FOOD ABANDONED ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD? BECAUSE THAT'S ***OBVIOUSLY*** WHAT HAPPENED.

BRINGING IN EXTRA FOOD LIKE THIS, ***WHEREVER*** IT COMES FROM...WELL, THESE ARE TOUGH TIMES, BUT WE'RE FEEDING MORE PEOPLE THAN EVER.

BUTTER

CHERRY

SOY LECITHIN

FOOD O's

YOU AND KEVIN ARE DOING REAL GOOD HERE.

THANK YOU...FOR EVERYTHING.

FLOUR

CABBAGE

*BUT THAT'S WHAT I'VE NOW REALIZED...YOU CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH **GOOD** PEOPLE...*

...BECAUSE THERE ARE **TOO MANY** OF THE OTHER KIND.

WELL, I GUESS IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME NOTHING **GOOD** HAPPENED HERE, HUH?

LAST TIME I SAW A MESS LIKE THIS, MY COCKER SPANIEL GOT INTO A BOX OF THE CHOCOLATE LAXATIVE STUFF...

...I MEAN, IT WAS ***EVERYWHERE.***

BUT EVEN ***HE*** WASN'T DUMB ENOUGH TO LEAVE A CALLING CARD.

UH, EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT... I THINK I'M GOING TO--

MAN, I REMEMBER MY FIRST MOB HIT CRIME SCENE WHERE YOU COULDN'T TELL THE GUTS FROM THE MARINARA.

WE'RE COMING TO YOU LIVE FROM THE HUNGRY HEART BAR AND GRILL WHERE WE ARE JUST LEARNING THE DETAILS OF A GRUESOME MURDER SCENE--

GCPD

IT'S NOT A PLEASANT SIGHT...

...ACTUALLY, IT'S THE *SMELL,* ISN'T IT?

THE SMELL IS WORSE...AND YOU WON'T GET USED TO IT.

I-I'M SORRY, SIR.

THE FIRST CRIME SCENE I WORKED IN GOTHAM INVOLVED THE JOKER, A *SPORK,* AND A FEW VERY UNFORTUNATE TELEVISION REPORTERS.

CRIME IN GOTHAM'S JUST A LITTLE BIT... *DIFFERENT.*

YOU'RE THE TRANSFER FROM SEATTLE, RIGHT? OFFICER...?

SHAW, SIR. JAYLIN SHAW.

YOU CAN DROP THE *SIR.* JUST CALL ME ISAAC...

WHAT DO *YOU* MAKE OF IT ALL, SHAW?

SIR? I MEAN... ISAAC?

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT... A STRING OF MURDERS ALL WITH THE VICTIMS' EYES MISSING. IT'S OBVIOUSLY A ***CALLING CARD***...MUTILATING THE VICTIMS THE SAME WAY EVERY TIME.

VICTIMS OR *PERPS?*

YOU'VE READ THE FILES. SURE... THE KILLER IS TAKING OUT SOME ***BAD*** PEOPLE...BUT THEIR PAST CRIMES DON'T MAKE THEM ANY LESS ***VICTIMS,*** OFFICER.

OF COURSE, SIR. BUT DOES THE ***KILLER*** SEE IT THAT WAY?

THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE TO CONSIDER, ISN'T IT? ANOTHER DAMNED ***VIGILANTE...***

THE ***BATS...*** THEY DON'T KILL THOUGH... ***RIGHT...?***

DETECTIVE...

...WE JUST PULLED THE SECURITY FOOTAGE FROM THE BAR. THERE'S ONLY ***ONE*** OPERATIONAL CAMERA FOR THE ENTIRE ESTABLISHMENT...

...BUT WE STILL MANAGED TO GRAB A CLEAR IMAGE OF THE SHOOTER.

TAKE A LOOK AT ***THIS...***

...IT'S ***HARLEY QUINN,*** DETECTIVE.

WELL, I'LL BE DAMNED.

THIS IS A ***HELL*** OF A GOTHAM CITY WELCOME, OFFICER SHAW...

"...YOU GET TO HELP ARREST *HARLEY QUINN.*"

I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO MAKE THE BED BEFORE I LEFT...

...OR DO THE DISHES...

...OR CLEAN REALLY *ANYTHING,* ACTUALLY...

I DON'T MIND. I'M SURE IT'S NOT *THAT* MESSY--

PLEASE STAY OUT

OH...

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!

WH-WHAT HAPPENED...?

I WAS *JUST* HERE... A FEW WEEKS AGO...

I'VE BEEN...*BUSY*, I GUESS. IT'S NOT *THAT* BAD.

IS LOW-SODIUM SAUCE OKAY WITH YOU? THAT'S ALL I CAN FIND--

HARLEY...IS THERE SOMETHING WE SHOULD *TALK* ABOUT?

GRAB A SEAT. JUST MOVE THE PIZZA BOX...

WHAT? NO...I'M *FINE.*

CLEARLY.

...AND PUT THE TOASTER ON THE FLOOR. THAT SHOULDN'T BE ON THE COUCH ANYWAYS...

LET'S SEE... I KNOW I'VE GOT SOME SOY SAUCE AROUND HERE...

IS THIS ABOUT *IVY* LEAVING? YOU HAVEN'T REALLY MENTIONED IT, AND I GUESS I GOT A BIT PREOCCUPIED WITH SAM...

BUT I'M HERE FOR YOU. AND I'M SORRY IF YOU THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T HAVE SOMEONE TO TALK TO--

YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE FOR BEING HAPPY, KEVIN.

YOU FOUND SOMEONE TO SHARE YOUR DAY WITH...

...TO WASTE TIME WITH AND BINGE-WATCH ALL THE BEST SHOWS ON REPEAT AND RECITE THE LINES TOGETHER...

...I'M HAPPY FOR YOU.

UGH... SORRY, THAT CAME OUT LIKE I'M SOME ***BITTER*** OLD CAT LADY, WHICH, BY THE WAY, IS A ***STUPID*** STIGMA TO ATTRIBUTE TO WOMEN.

HARLEY...

LIKE OUR ONLY SELF-WORTH IS IN DATING, AND FALLING IN LOVE, AND THEN SPENDING THE REST OF OUR LIVES WITH THIS AMAZING WOMAN WHO LOOKS ***INCREDIBLE*** IN GREEN AND CAN CONTROL LITERAL FREAKIN' ***VINES***--

I...I ***MISS HER,*** KEVIN.

COME HERE.

I KNOW IT'S NOT THE SAME KIND OF LOVE...BUT YOU HAVE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE WHO LOVE YOU, HARLEY.

I LOVE YOU.

I LOVE YOU, TOO--

IS THAT A HELICOPTER?

WHY WOULD A HELICOPTER BE FLYING AROUND HERE THIS TIME OF--?

BAM BAM BAM

MAYBE IT'S PUBLISHERS CLEARING HOUSE SHOWING UP WITH ONE OF THOSE GIANT NOVELTY CHECKS...?

HARLEY QUINN...THIS IS GOTHAM CITY POLICE...

...YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR THE MURDER OF FRANKIE PETERSON!

PLEASE STAY

SO, NO CHECK...?

HARLEY!

DON'T MOVE, QUINN!

WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTIN' FREE MONEY IN THE FORM OF A FIVE-FOOT CHECK, A ***MURDER ACCUSATION*** IS A PRETTY BIG LETDOWN...

OOF!

FREEZE!

LISTEN...I ***DIDN'T*** KILL ANYONE! OR, AT LEAST NOT ***THIS*** SOMEONE...OR ***THIS*** TIME.

YOU GOT THE WRONG CHATTY YET LOVABLE FORMER CLOWN VILLAIN!

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT...

HARLEY...***NO!*** SHE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

LET HER GO!

I'M NOT OPPOSED TO HANDCUFFS... BUT THESE ARE A ***LITTLE*** TIGHT EVEN FOR ME.

MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE A SAFE WORD. HOW ABOUT... ***SAUERKRAUT?***

IT'S A FUN WORD TO SAY. YOU SHOULD TRY IT--

I ***SAID*** YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN ***SILENT,*** QUINN...

"HARLEY QUINN WAS ARRESTED TONIGHT..."

BLACKGATE PRISON.

...MURDER CHARGES WITH APPARENTLY ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO PUT HER AWAY FOR *GOOD*...

EXIT

...NO BAIL OR NOTHING. SHE'S COMING STRAIGHT *HERE*.

YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT I JUST HEARD...

HAR LEY

...HARLEY QUINN IS COMING *HERE*.

MURDER CHARGES... KILLED SOME MOBSTER OR SOMETHIN'.

I HEARD SHE KILLED *MULTIPLE* PEOPLE. LIKE A SPREE...

I HEARD SHE EVEN *MUTILATED* THE CORPSE.

WHAT A SICKO.

MEDICAL

SHE SHOULD BE IN ARKHAM...

AFTER WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE JOKER AND THAT WHOLE MESS...? ARKHAM'S NOT OPERATIN' THE SAME WAY NO MORE.

THEY JUST SEND PEOPLE WHERE THEY CAN FIND A BED.

I HAVEN'T SEEN HARLEY IN YEARS. IT WILL BE GOOD TO... *RECONNECT*.

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HARLEY QUINN COMING TO BLACKGATE...

"...BETTER GET THE WELCOMING PARTY READY..."

ANYONE ELSE WANNA STAY UP ALL NIGHT TELLIN' SPOOKY STORIES AND EATIN' S'MORES...? MAYBE SOME CRAFTS...?

...DO EACH OTHER'S HAIR...?

...NOT MURDER EACH OTHER?

NEXT:
BLACKGATE PENITENTIARY BLUES

THERE'S A NEW BATMAN IN TOWN. AND BRUCE WAYNE WILL HAVE TO BECOME A FUGITIVE TO STOP HIM.

DC BLACK LABEL

MARCH | AGES 17+

BATMAN

BEYOND THE WHITE KNIGHT

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY **SEAN MURPHY**

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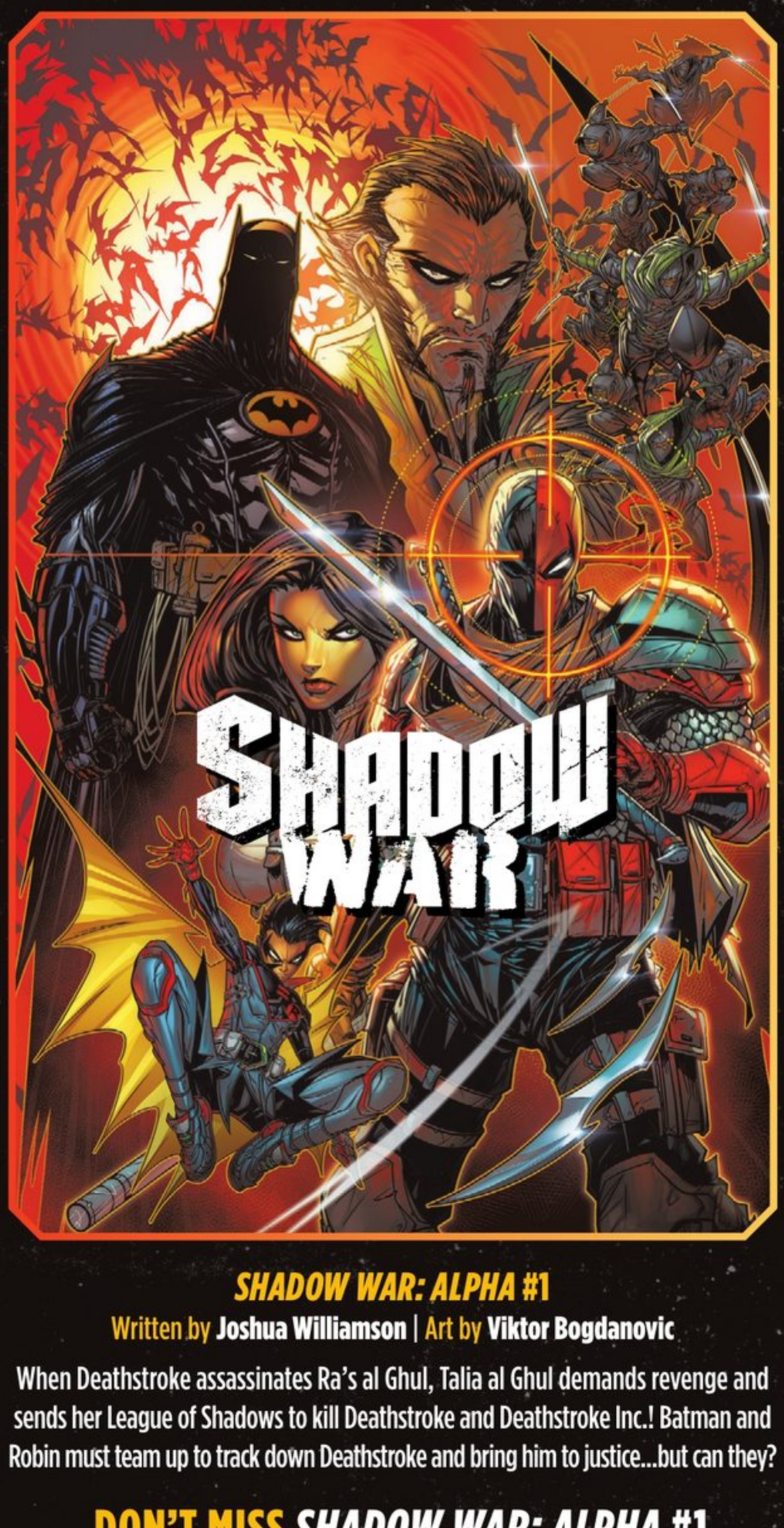
THE THRILLING 8-ISSUE SEQUEL TO *BATMAN: WHITE KNIGHT* AND *BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT*

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

SHADOW WAR



SHADOW WAR: ALPHA #1

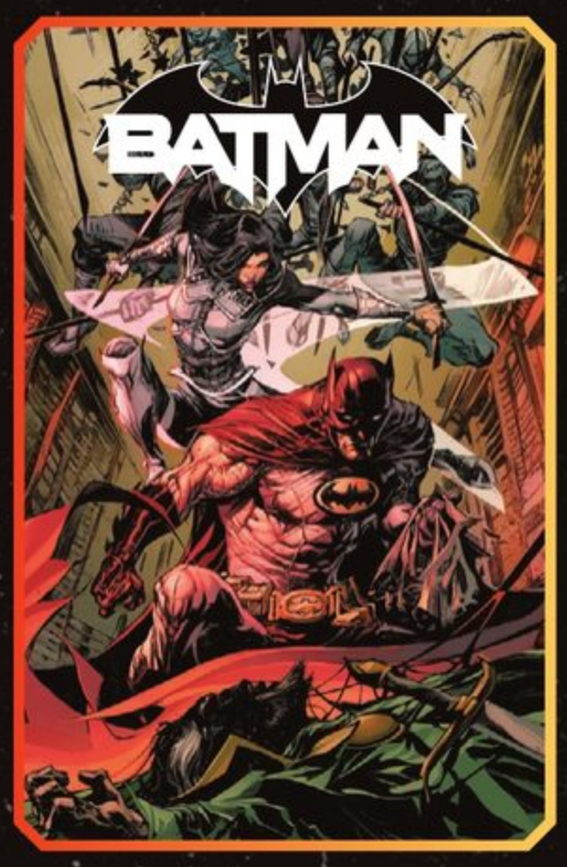
Written by **Joshua Williamson** | Art by **Viktor Bogdanovic**

When Deathstroke assassinates Ra's al Ghul, Talia al Ghul demands revenge and sends her League of Shadows to kill Deathstroke and Deathstroke Inc.! Batman and Robin must team up to track down Deathstroke and bring him to justice...but can they?

DON'T MISS *SHADOW WAR: ALPHA* #1, ON SALE IN MARCH!

Deathstroke has done a *lot* of bad things in his time as the DC Universe's deadliest assassin, but he's about to commit an unthinkable (and thoroughly inadvisable) act: killing Ra's al Ghul, sparking the upcoming three-month crossover Shadow War.

It all starts in March's *Shadow War: Alpha* #1, before continuing in the pages of *Batman*, *Deathstroke Inc.*, and *Robin*, and then concluding in May's *Shadow War: Omega* #1. Here's your guide to the opening month of the nine-part event.



BATMAN #122

Written by **Joshua Williamson**
Art by **Howard Porter**

Batman is on the case to find Deathstroke before Talia's elite killers do, but Batman starts to piece together that not everything is what it seems in Ra's's death. He knows whom he must interrogate to get answers—Talia herself! Can the two former lovers ever work together again?

DEATHSTROKE INC. #8

Written by **Joshua Williamson**
Art by **Paolo Pantalena**

Deathstroke and Respawn are on the run! Deathstroke Inc. has been destroyed, and his villain associates killed by the Demon's Shadow. Deathstroke must explain to Batman why he killed Ra's al Ghul...but first he must survive the hundreds of deadly killers coming for him.

ROBIN #13

Written by **Joshua Williamson**
Art by **Roger Cruz**

Robin and Ravager have caught up with Deathstroke and Respawn! Can they convince Deathstroke to turn himself in... or fight to the death? And what startling revelation does Robin learn that shocks this story to its core?

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